

Estimating the global burden of TB: WHO methods

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Four main methods were used by WHO to derive TB incidence estimates over the period 2000-2019, before the onset of the global covid pandemic: (i) results from TB prevalence surveys; (ii) notifications in high-income countries adjusted by a standard factor to account for under-reporting and underdiagnosis and (iii) national inventory studies; (iv) case notification data combined with expert opinion about case detection gaps. Mortality was derived from cause of death data from national vital registration systems or from results of mortality surveys, where available. In the absence of reliable empirical data, mortality was derived indirectly from incidence and standard distributions of the case fatality ratio in different categories of cases.

To account for the impact of covid disruptions in 2020-2021, TB incidence and mortality were estimated using dynamic models in selected countries with large absolute reductions in the reported number of people newly diagnosed with TB relative to reported numbers in 2019.



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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Philippe Glaziou has been team leader in charge of epidemiological analyses of the burden of TB, the impact of TB control, and global projections of TB burden, at the Global TB Programme of the World Health Organization in Geneva over the period 2008-2022. He is a medical doctor and holds post-graduate degrees in biostatistics, clinical trials methodology, epidemiology, tropical medicine and public health from the Universities of Paris VI, Bordeaux and Nancy. Prior to joining WHO, he was employed by the Institute Pasteur in Paris, posted internationally as Laboratory Head in several Pasteur Institutes. His current area of interest is disease burden. He recently joined Institute Malardé in Tahiti, French Polynesia.

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